SAN ANTONIO LIGHT
May 1982

MCMAHON IS GOOD CHOICE

President Reagan's selection of John N. McMahon to succeed Adm. Bobby R. Inman as deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency is an excellent move. As a career intelligence officer, McMahon has been serving as the CIA's executive director, and thus has broad knowledge of, and experience in, the duties he will assume when the Senate confirms his appointment.

Top CIA jobs are not payoff positions for political hacks strong on partisan loyality but limited in an understanding of the nation's security problems. On the other hand, CIA leadership should not be confined to professional spies insensitive to considerations of privacy, human rights and civil liberties.

Good intelligency performance demands a combination of loyality to the administration and a professional approach to the dangers of subversion and how to cope with them.

Inman served his country well as deputy chief of the CIA, and won the respect of Congress. Vermont's Sen. Patrick Leahy said, "Nobody can match him in the intelligence service."

Inman had his disagreements with the administration, but to his credit he has been candid enough to admit them and conduct himself accordingly.

McMahon looks like a superb successor because he has the right balance of personal and professional qualifications. People like to work for him, which always is an asset for an administrator. He is considered to have as broad a knowledge of the operations of the CIA as anyone in the government.

The CIA has had some of its teeth pulled in recent months, and security has suffered. Security-conscious citizens will look to McMahon to put some of the bite back into the agency.

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THE WASHINGTON POST
3 May 1982

Lou Cannon

REAGAN & CO.

A week ago the administration dodged another confrontation with Congress on the capabilities of Central Intelligence Director William J. Casey when the president decided to name veteran CIA bureaucrat John N. McMahon as Casey's deputy after the popular Bobby Ray Inman leaves the No. 2 post. But though Casey enjoys the confidence of Reagan, there are few illusions about his ability among top White House staffers. As one of them put it recently, "Bill's the only CIA director we've ever had who doesn't need a scrambler on his telephone."

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U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT
3 May 1982

The CIA Loses Its Top Brain

Is America's intelligence community, which has had smooth sailing since Ronald Reagan took office, headed for a stormy new period of controversy?

That was the fear expressed in Washington after an April 21 announcement that Adm. Bobby Ray Inman, 51, deputy chief of the Central Intelligence Agency, will leave the CIA this summer to join private industry.

Senator Joseph Biden (D-Del.) spoke for many in Congress: "Inman believed the nation can have both effective intelligence agencies and civil liberties. Without him, the intelligence agencies may be given license to try all kinds of questionable things both here and abroad."

Inman

Inman's efforts to head off proposals to permit domestic spying by the CIA and his skeptical view of risky covert ventures overseas involved him in running battles with Reagan's national-security staff. The fights took their toll, even when Inman won. Said a CIA official about his resignation: "He had just used up his patience with internecine warfare. It was starting to bother him."

Inman was rewarded with the fourth star of a full admiral when he agreed to Reagan's request to become deputy to CIA Director William Casey, who had managed the President's campaign.

Inman, then head of the code-breaking National Security Agency (NSA), made it clear he would remain only for a limited time to help revitalize an intelligence operation that had lost funds, manpower and prestige in the 1970s.

In accepting Inman's resignation, Reagan said the admiral leaves the intelligence community "in a strengthened and enhanced posture."

How smooth the CIA's future course will be depends on how well Inman's successor can reassure Congress that the agency won't become a "rogue elephant," as it was once described. Among top candidates for the job were John McMahon, who has been running the CIA's day-to-day operations, and Air Force Lt. Gen. Lincoln Faurer, who succeeded Inman at the NSA.

Many lawmakers think Inman will be hard to follow. Said Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.): "Nobody can match him in the intelligence service." □

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NEW YORK TIMES
2 MAY 1982

The Nation

In Summary

C.I.A. No. 2 A Technical Man

The earth rumbles when a top Central Intelligence Agency job switches hands, even if the agency's demeanor stays mostly the same.

President Reagan named an intelligence veteran, John McMahon, to succeed Adm. Bobby Inman as C.I.A. deputy director last week. The appointment was meant to mollify Congressional concerns about the agency's professionalism and, as such, is not expected to bring policy shifts.

Mr. McMahon is highly regarded as a manager and technician, but lacks the outside constituency needed to be an effective policy advocate. Given Adm. Inman's unusual bipartisan support in Congress, his successor will have big shoes to fill. Moreover, Adm. Inman told the American Newspapers Publishers Association last week that United States foreign intelligence is "marginally capable."

The Senate Committee on Intelligence has had a "troubled 18-month relationship" with the Administration over some of its C.I.A. appointments, observed committee member Daniel Patrick Moynihan. The forced resignation last year of Max Hugel as chief of covert operations fueled criticism of Director William Casey. With a debate about C.I.A. secrecy and domestic spying growing, the President and Mr. Casey quickly tapped the experienced, apolitical McMahon.

Michael Wright
and Caroline Rand Herron

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CHICAGO TRIBUNE
2 May 1982

Top spies push expert to watch over CIA chief

By James Coates
Chicago Tribune Press Service

WASHINGTON — Intelligence community insiders will press hard to elevate a CIA expert on Soviet nuclear weapons to a top job in order to prevent CIA Director William J. Casey from incorporating a partisan bias in agency reports, The Tribune has learned.

The behind-the-scenes move to make R. E. Hineman head of foreign intelligence assessments at the CIA is the latest in a series of efforts to keep Casey, a major political operative in President Reagan's campaign, from politicizing agency reports.

The CIA reports are crucial to U.S. foreign and military policymakers, who use them to determine such things as Soviet military intentions, the accuracy of Soviet weapons, and potential successors to Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev.

Casey's detractors have long warned that the 69-year-old conservative was ordering subordinates to slant their reports to reflect his personal hardline views.

THE RECENT SURPRISE resignation of Adm. Bobby Ray Inman as Casey's deputy revived these concerns by such key leaders as Sen. Barry Goldwater (R., Ariz.) and Rep. Richard Lugar (R., Ind.).

In the wake of Inman's resignation, Lugar and Goldwater — widely viewed as hardliners themselves — stunned many agency insiders by publicly accusing Casey of lacking objectivity.

Lugar, a former Navy intelligence officer, said that "there are simply complexities involved (in preparing assessments) that would take more years than Bill Casey has" to grasp.

Goldwater said bluntly of Casey: "He is not a pro."

Sending an obvious signal to the White House and to CIA headquarters, both senators warned that their past support of Casey was given grudgingly and only because Reagan made Inman, a 51-year-old career intelligence professional, Casey's No. 2 man.

The administration moved quickly last week to mollify Lugar, Goldwater and other members of the House and Senate Intelligence Committees by naming as Inman's successor John McMahon, who had been in charge of preparing the reports assessing Soviet and other foreign adversaries' future behavior.

McMAHON, A VETERAN of the CIA and its recent bureaucratic shakeups, was a welcome choice to the congressional critics, sources on Capitol Hill said.

McMahon had been shuffled about at the CIA early in the Reagan administration during the disastrous effort to install a political ally of Casey, Max Hugel, as chief of the agency's covert operations.

Hugel, a sewing machine importer, directed Reagan's political campaign in New Hampshire and became a close friend of Casey.

Intelligence professionals expressed dismay when Casey placed Hugel in charge of covert operations, the CIA branch that includes all the agency's clandestine operations abroad.

Hugel resigned last summer in a furor over charges that he manipulated stock sales and was replaced by John Stein, a seasoned intelligence expert who served as station chief in Cambodia in 1971 and 1972.

REACTING to the Hugel scandal, the agency drastically reorganized its top command. McMahon was named executive director, and a bright young careerist, Robert Gates, became chief of foreign assessments, with Hineman as his deputy.

There now are strong indications that Gates, one of the fastest-rising CIA men in the agency's history, will become executive director, leaving his intelligence assessment post open.

Fierce bureaucratic in-fighting has erupted in a drive to get Hineman into Gates' vacated position.

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THE ECONOMIST
1 May 1982

CIA

Watchdog departs

WASHINGTON, DC

It is not that Admiral Bobby Ray Inman is a great civil libertarian, a sceptic about the American intelligence agencies, or one who could be counted upon to leak information about their abuses to the press or the public. It is just that he has been seen as a professional, non-political intelligence officer, a kind of watchdog among Reagan administration appointees who are very political indeed. Admiral Inman's presence as deputy director of central intelligence was thus reassuring to those who felt uneasy about Mr William Casey, a political crony of the president who is the director; and so it is that Mr Inman's sudden, unexpected resignation has stirred concern.

The admiral says that he wants to enter private business, to run something, and make more money in order to afford a college education for his teenage sons. But there are two other interpretations of his departure. One is that what he really wanted to run was the Central Intelligence Agency and that he chafed in the number-two position under Mr Casey, having already been in charge of the National Security Agency (which is concerned primarily with electronic and other technical means of intelligence-gathering). In fact, Mr Inman was the choice of Mr Barry Goldwater and other members of the senate intelligence committee to run the CIA; but, as it became clear that the various revelations about Mr Casey's complicated financial affairs would not be his undoing, Mr Inman's hopes faded.

The second interpretation of Mr Inman's decision is the more troubling one. It holds that he was opposed to a plan by Mr Reagan (or, more precisely, by some White House aides) to review and reorganise American counter-intelligence policy and operations. Mr Inman and others who agreed with him apparently worried that the review would lead to the creation of a new counter-intelligence agency that would have a mandate to collect information within the United States, and to the development of a central records system that, by some accounts, would pose a threat to civil liberties. These are sensitive issues precisely because the CIA—exceeding its formal legal authority—did some of those same things during the 1960s and early 1970s. Many of the questionable CIA operations were dismantled during the Ford and Carter administrations, and some of Mr Reagan's aides are frank about wanting to restore them.

Mr Inman took pains to deny that his departure had anything to do with such policy debates. But it is a sign of how much distrust congress and the press still feel towards the CIA that his announcement stirred such intense discussion. The White House moved quickly to dampen the excitement by announcing the appointment of another intelligence professional, Mr John McMahon, as Admiral Inman's successor. Not much is known about Mr McMahon's politics or his position on the issue of domestic counter-intelligence, but one of his assets is that he has held jobs in many different parts of the CIA and thus knows its strengths and its weaknesses. (In the arcane world of intelligence, however, that can also be regarded as a disadvantage, since Mr McMahon has no clearly identifiable body of support within the agency, nor any powerful political allies on Capitol Hill.) Confirmation hearings on his appointment will give the senate another chance to investigate how far the Reagan administration is attempting to go in the area of domestic intelligence.

Inman's out

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
30 April 1982

CONGRESS PLANS tighter scrutiny of the CIA with Adm. Inman departing.

The retirement of the agency's respected No. 2 man raises concern about its doings. Lawmakers generally distrust CIA Director Casey. They complain he doesn't tell them what the agency is up to, particularly in the area of covert action. With Inman on the job, Congress could "sleep at night," one aide says. Now legislators will want to know more about any "dirty tricks."

But there's a "Catch-22," warns a congressional staffer. Lawmakers expect a harder time getting information now that Inman, their best source, is leaving. They doubt that his replacement, John McMahon, can challenge Casey on issues or exercise control over the agency. A possible result: Casey may get deeper into daily CIA operations that Inman has handled.

The U.S. may take a stiffer stand on verification of arms-control treaties. Inman showed faith in monitoring by satellite, but other officials think on-site inspection is a must.